

Some of the improvements completed by the Friends since 1981 include:

Full restoration of the home's interior & exterior

Creation of a caretaker's apartment

Construction of the gazebo & waterfall

Installation of the large outdoor patio

Construction of Zell's garden shed

Design and upkeep of outdoor gardens

Completion of second floor balcony

- and most recently -

Installation of a comprehensive lawn & garden irrigation system

*In appreciation of the founding board of directors and committee members: Alice Benski, Zelma Adams, Betsy Crist, Jerry Herrmann, William Little, Judy Nelson, Edward N. & June McLean, Elaine Yandle-Harmon, Ed & Judy Zuck, and Bruce & Bonnie Wilson*

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FRIENDS OF MCLEAN PARK AND HOUSE**

**AND**

**KIEWIT INFRASTRUCTURE WEST,  
CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION,  
VANCOUVER, WA**

*Developed by Mike Watters, Vice President,  
Friends of McLean Park and House 2022*

## THE HISTORY OF MCLEAN PARK AND HOUSE

**CELEBRATING DR. EDWARD MCLEAN'S  
PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY IN 1922,  
THE SAME YEAR THE WEST LINN/OREGON CITY  
ARCH BRIDGE WAS COMPLETED**



### NATIVE PEOPLES

Prior to the 19th century, before settlement of the Willamette Falls area by European immigrants, the falls were a major gathering place for Native American tribes. Fish at the falls were abundant and the Clowewalla would host gatherings for visiting tribes to trade. These included the Tualatin Kalapuyans, Molales (Molallas), Multnomahs, and the Clackamas peoples. The tribes were organized into self-governing cities but were related to, and politically associated with, a larger tribe. The Clowewallas were aligned with the Clackamas tribe of the Clackamas, Willamette, and Columbia rivers. Today those tribes and bands are part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The McLean House is located on what is believed to have been the location of the Clowewalla Village of Walamt (the origin of the word Willamette). The Clowewalla people constructed a line of cedar longhouses parallel to the river, some as long as 300 feet. Besides the local tribes, many regional tribes converged on the river during seasonal salmon runs to fish. Fur traders and explorers traded with the Clackamas for provisions from the village, including firewood, dogs (used for food), dried salmon, eel, hazelnuts, and smelt (ooligan.)



Between 1790 and 1845, Native Americans in the villages situated along the banks of the Columbia and Willamette rivers were nearly wiped out as a result of smallpox and malaria epidemics, diseases brought by European settlers, traders, and explorers. In 1856, most surviving members of Clackamas and Multnomah tribes were removed to the Grand Ronde Reservation.

### HUGH BURNS (1807 - 1870)

An Irish emigrant, Hugh Burns traveled the Oregon Trail with Dr. Elijah White's party in 1842 and staked a land claim on the property where the McLean Park and House now sits. Burns served as a letter carrier for the Provisional Government and was instrumental in the establishment of the area that is now West Linn. Additionally, Burns originated a ferry system at the end of Holly Street to Oregon City. He had hoped to build a bridge over the river, but nothing came of his application.

## THE MCLEAN FAMILY

### Dr. Edward McLean



Dr. Edward H. McLean was born in 1886 in Klamath Falls, Oregon, the son of a Presbyterian missionary. His boyhood was spent in Grants Pass before moving to Portland where he attended Portland Academy. In 1902, the family moved to Puerto Rico where his father helped

construct the Presbyterian Hospital in San Juan. After graduating from Princeton University with honors in 1908, he entered Columbia University of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1912. Following positions at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City and Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, he served as captain in the Oregon National Guard on the Mexican border. Edward married Anne M. Cooper in 1925, whom he met while she was a student nurse at St. Luke's. One of the couple's first shared experiences as husband and wife was treating victims of the infamous Typhoid Mary at a hospital near the border.



After serving in World War I in medical research from 1917-1918, the couple moved to Oregon City in 1919. Dr. McLean practiced family medicine with Dr. Mount before opening his own medical office in 1923. The McLean Clinic, on the corner of 7th and High Streets in Oregon City was completed in 1936. In 2012, this building became the City Hall of Oregon City.



Dr. McLean was a country doctor and treated patients all over Clackamas County. He traveled from home to home checking on expectant mothers, delivering babies, setting broken bones, and performing surgery.

In 1938, Dr. McLean helped found the Physicians Association of Clackamas County. This was the first physician sponsored prepaid medical plan in the U.S., which led to formation of the Oregon Physician Service.

Dr. McLean is remembered professionally as a fine doctor, compassionate man, teacher, and diligent researcher, specializing in the field of communicable disease. He was also an innovator in the organization of health care and financial aid for medical students through the American Medical Association. He was involved with the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners and Oregon's representative to the American Medical Association. He suffered a heart attack in 1946 and retired in 1960. After moving to a nursing home in Gladstone, Dr. McLean died in 1972 at the age of 84.

### Anne McLean



Anne Mathilda Cooper was born in 1888 in Camden, Delaware. Her father was a homeopathic physician which influenced her to become a teacher, and later, a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in 1913.

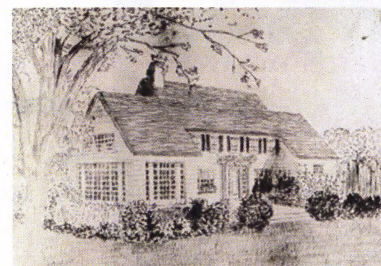
Anne helped with Edward's medical practice in Oregon City while raising their children in West Linn. During World War II she taught home nursing courses for the American Red Cross.

The McLean's had 5 children: Charles Mason Dutcher (1917), Anne Cooper (Nancy) (1918), Edward Norris (Ted) (1923), Margaret MacGregor (1926), and Jean Barnard (1933). Anne enjoyed her rose garden and participating in community endeavors. She died after a long illness in 1963.



The McLean Family  
Back row: L/R Edward (Ted), Charles Mason, Margaret M.  
Front row: L/R Jean B., Anne C., Edward H., Ann C. (Nancy)

## HISTORY OF THE MCLEAN PROPERTY



In 1922, Dr. McLean purchased four acres located on the bluff overlooking the Willamette River at the end of River St. in West Linn from the Moody Investment Co., for approx. \$15,000.

He and Anne developed the property into an arboretum of grand trees, shrubs, vegetable and flower gardens, tennis court, and pony barn, along with plenty of room for the McLean children to explore with friends.

The McLean's helped in the design of the modified colonial style, three-story home. The house has maintained most of its original structure, both inside and out while the grounds have been altered over the years. A giant sequoia has grown to over 36 feet around the base. Anne's prized rose garden remains in its original location and several of the roses are from Anne's collection.



The home's basement was hollowed out using a horse drawn scoop, which uncovered Native American artifacts such as bead ornaments, bones, stone implements, grinding stones, arrowheads, and ax heads. These items were considered so common at the time that most were not preserved.

The house includes seventeen rooms, a full basement, attic, two fireplaces, and three full bathrooms. The home was built with the skilled craftsmanship of the 1920's, including handcrafted woodwork, sculptured wallpaper, charming fixtures, spacious bedrooms, a sun drenched conservatory, and a complete kitchen. The main stairway, including balustrade, doors, window sills, and moldings are native walnut.

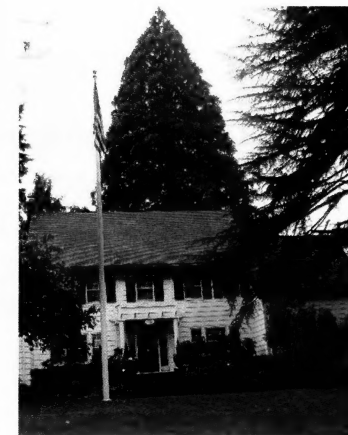
The house was completed in 1927 after many starts and stops for construction. Of the original 4-acre site, 2.4 acres remain after the construction of the George Abernathy Bridge which spanned the Willamette River and joined I-205 in 1970.

Today, McLean Park and House is a West Linn city park that adjoins West Bridge Park and abuts the northern boundary of city and state owned property beneath the Interstate 205 freeway.



## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION SITE

The McLean property is registered as an Oregon State Archeological site with the State Historic Preservation Office (site 35-CL-13). The property was purchased from the McLean family by the City of West Linn in 1969 with Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (50%), Willamette River Greenway Funds (25%) and a donation by the McLean family (25%). The Croy family lived in the home for nearly 10 years until 1979 when a task force recommended that the house be managed by the Friends of McLean Park and House for preservation, management, and restoration.



## FRIENDS OF MCLEAN PARK AND HOUSE

On May 8, 1981, The Friends of McLean Park and House registered as an official nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with an active board of directors and the ability to accept public funds. The Board's mission was to restore, maintain, and preserve the the property and to serve as an advisory group to the city. Today, the property offers private rental space, community gathering opportunities and a public park with multiple gardens maintained by volunteers.